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GENERAL METHUEN'S RELEASE.

In the slang vernacular of the day, it's up to England to show that it appreciates fully the chivalrous action of the Boer commander, General Delarcy, in releasing his captive, General Methuen, no matter what his motive, immediate or remote, may have been in taking this course. From whatever standpoint considered, it was the act of a generous and humane

The Boers, it is true, have repeatedly shown that they do not care to burden themselves with large numbers of prisoners of war. In this course they have evinced considerable sagacity, because the opposite policy would either have entailed upon them the necessity of cutting short their own supplies in field and camp, or might have brought upon them the reproach of failing to treat their prisoners with humane considera-

Quite different, however, the case of General Methuen. Here was a prisoner whose captivity not only deprived the British of one of their ablest officers, but the possession of whom placed in the hands of the Boers a hostage for their own commanders in the hands of the enemy. It was a noble act to release such a man without any consideration or condition. England cannot afford to do less than act in a similar spirit regarding some one of the leading prisoners.

MANUFACTURING IN THE DISTRICT.

From time to time the subject of manufacturing in the District has been before the public, but as a rule it has developed nothing more than discussion. While it has been conceded by men whose opinions are entitled to respect that right in the immediate vicinity of the National Capital are facilities for manufacturing enterprises unexcelled anywhere in the country, little if anything has been done to demonstrate this faith by works, and the magnificent power of the Great Falls remains unhar-

Again hopes are awakened that the time may not be far distant when the District of Columbia, besides being the seat of government, will also enjoy the distinction of being counted among the great manufacturing centres of the country. The local Board of Trade is reported to be in receipt of communications pointing to the establishment here in the near future of several important manufacturing concerns. In one instance this is said to have crystallized so far as to warrant the expectation that a plant giving employment to five hundred persons will soon be

Congress ought to be induced, by every reasonable argument that can be brought to bear upon it, to lend its aid, by means of appropriate legislation, to help on the movement. The objection-so frequently made that it has become too stale for the purpose of argument-that the presence of a large number of big factories, with their noise and smoke, would destroy the distinct character of Washington as a capital and res-Idential city should no longer be permitted to stand in the way of this desirable progress. The same conditions have not impaired the value of Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Brussels, and a number of other large European eities as desirable places of residence. The manufacturing facilities could be so placed as not to conflict with the beautification project which is engaging the efforts of progressive Washingtonians.

OTHER PEOPLE'S MOTIVES.

One of the wayside philosophers who contribute to newspapers and magazines recently observed that the certainty with which we state other people's motives for their actions is nothing less than phenomenal. A man does something which attracts the attention of his neighbors, and his neighbors immedistely decide that he is doing it for this, that, or the other reason, and explain the affair with as much confidence as if he had told it all to them beforehand. Sometimes this ready-made explanation proves more tenacious of life than the man's own sworn statement. It is truly a curious trait in human

Most people have been at one time or another considerably annoyed at such developments. They have found their most innocent actions misconstrued, their plans divined before they were ready to announce them, and, in short, as one exasperated woman put it, have found the whole neighborhood discussing their proposals that haven't been proposed. It is certainly a nuisance for the victim from any point of view. Most people like to talk, but nobody likes to be talked about-that is, unpleasantly. Even some of those who are accused of a craving for notoriety are in reality longing for obscurity and peace.

But, after all, this is a trait which is useful, if not indispensable, and is at any rate an inevitable development of the human mind. The hunt for reasons, the discovery of natural law, and the study of character, are legitlmate intellectual processes. In order to know how to lay our own plans we must under stand what is likely to happen, and in a small circle of society this depends upon the actions of our neighbors. It is, therefore, most natural that each should not only observe his neighbor, but determine so far as in him lies that neighbor's character; and this is gossip.

CURRENT PRESS COMMENT.

Nixon's Advice to Tammany.

New York Evening Telegram-"Don't fight," says Mr. Lewis Nixon to the Tammany leaders. This is an unwarranted interference with a God-given privilege. Besides, does Mr. Nixon want to advise

the disputants to run? The Trouble in Kansas.

Chicago Tribune-Answer to the old question: "What's the matter with Kansas?" The Hon. Web Davis is lecturing

A Barrel Campaign.

Chicago Inter-Ocean-It is said that Senator Clark of Montana aspires to the Democratic nomination for the Presidency and if this is true we have yet to see the greatest barrel campaign that has ever been waged in this country.

To Find His Bearings.

Cleveland Plain Dealer-Congressman Moody will have plenty of time to master the compass before he takes the Navy Department helm.

A National Calamity.

Boston Globe-And now the seal fishers of Newfoundland are on strike. Unless peror Wilhelm. The English King saw the trouble is remedied, sealskin jackets and muffs will be apt to take a decided jump in prices.

Too Late Altogether. St. Louis Globe-Democrat-The Canadians are disposed to criticise the principles of the Monroe Doctrine. This is all the more to be regretted because of the

fact that it is too late to change them. The Right Sort of Poultry.

Minneapolis Times-Gold-bearing poulright on with the previous question.

An American Queen.

Nashville American-Miss Alice Roose velt has the unique distinction of being the only woman in the world who is too high in station to visit a King or an Emperor.

Not a Tyro in Diplomacy.

Baltimore Sun-Dr. von Holleben may possess his soul in peace. Nobody in the United States thinks of him as a conspirator. He is a man of brains and character, who cut his wisdom teeth many years ago and knows as much about the duties of an Ambassador as any other member of the Diplomatic Corps in Wash-Ington.

Alexandra's Graceful Act.

Baltimore American-Queen Alexandra has ordered a large consignment of shamrocks to distribute among the Irish troops on St. Patrick's Day. It is a gracious thought, and shows that the present Queen has the womanly tact of her prede-

Edward One Ahead of Wilhelm

Cincinnati Enquirer-Edward VII still has the advantage over his consin. Em the beauties and glories and enjoyed the felicitations and hospitalities of this great Republic in person, while the Emperor only sees and enjoys them by proxy.

Theory and Fact.

Indianapolis News-In theory the Hous s more representative than the Senate

Mexico's Future.

Pittsburg Dispatch-The test of Mexico's stability will come when Diaz retry from Fifield, Wis., has reached the tires. Will his work survive him? Yet, Chicago market, but for steady returns in during his tenure. Mexicans have surely current coin of the Republic give us egg- realized that domestic peace and pros bearing poultry that will suspend the perity are preferable to the condition of rules during the cold months and keep revolution and ruin which has prevailed in States to the southward.

By HENRY KELLAR.

ion of magic art to expose the pretensions of socalled spirit mediums. It is true, I do not divulge my methods, any more than do the spirit mediums theirs, but whereas they ascribe the effects they produce to supernatural agency, I profess to accomplish everything I do by means of purely natural laws and devices; and I undertake to do anything I have seen the spiritists do. I believe that, in this respect, my entertainments are educational. I have received many congratulations from Catholic priests and Protestant elergymen who have witnessed my performances, on my achieving what have been regarded as spirit phenomena by means of mere sleight of hand, and thus exposing the quacks and pretenders to supernatural

Before entering this business on my own account 1 was for eight years assistant to the famous Davenport Brothers, who professed occult powers, and who gave "seances" all over the world. While in the employ of these gentlemen I had only to keep my eyes open to find out many things concerning the spirits. They were very clever performers, and possessed the necessary talent of the conjuror for turning what might otherwise prove an expose into a triumph. As an illustration of this faculty, which often makes a magic entertainment a battle of wit between the prestidigitator and his audience (and here is another phase of the educational question), the following incident may be cited:

The performances of the Davenports were ordinarily given in a large hall, in a portion of which a space was reserved for the operations of the spirits. This space was surrounded by what is called in spiritist parlance a "circle," that is, a number of people, a man and a woman alternately, clasped hands around the ring. This was done ostensibly for the purpose of creating a magnetic influence, presumed to be favorable for the operations of the spirits; in reality, it was

I have endeavored ever since I entered the profes- | for the preventing of the rest of the audience from owding into the open area, and perhaps finding out the substantial nature of the performers. Ordinarily the proceeding was as follows: The Davenports were securely bound in chairs by members of the audience, and in front of them was placed a table. The lights were extinguished, and in a short time turned on again, when the table was found to have been moved from its former position to a place directly in front of the circle, the Davenports remaining bound as before. Now it happened on the occasion to which I refer that a member of the circle reached out his hand at a critical moment in the performance and grabbed hold of a form which he discerned carrying the table. It was a ticklish moment for Davenport, but, quick as a flash he wrenched himself free of his garment, which he left in the hands of his would-be captor, made his way back to his chair, tightened the ropes as before, and, when the lights were turned on, there he sat quietly confronting his accuser, who held up the coat as evidence. Well, what was the result? Davenport informed the audience that, not only had the spirits moved the table, but that they had taken off his coat in doing so, and that the man who had secured the garment had thus taken it from the mischievous spirit. After that a coat trick became a regular feature of the performance. The light was extinguished, and, when turned up suddenly, there sat Davenport in his shirtsleeves, securely tied, apparently, while a coat was seen flying up toward the ceiling. Of course, the whole mystery lay in the simple expedient of stack knots, which give a man, even on close examination, every appearance of being securely bound, when, in reality, he is, to all intents and purposes, perfectly

free.
Well, I think then, that a modern, high-class magic entertainment is educational. It sets people think-ing, keeps them guessing, to use a little bit of slang, relaxes their minds by diverting them into a new and delightful channel.

UNDER THE CAPITOL DOME.

make an exception of the President of is at his expense.

West Virginia were among the guests. Mr. President, Senator Scott tells me that he has at last discovered your standard of men.

that I doubt not but that he has been a frequent caller—and that you have al- it has a high-priced foreign movement, ways informed him that the men must but its chief value to him is in the way be 'up to the standard.' Now he says he has found out what that 'standard' is."

President, still a bit perplexed. "Why, it's Ben Daniels," responded Senator Hanna, and the guests, remembering the result of the Daniels appointment, laughed heartily, and, appreciating No Seat No Fare Bill Tabled. the joke, the President joined them.

Not Friendly to Civil Service.

Senator Gailinger is not a friend of the Civil Service Commission or of "civil service reform." This is a mild way of stating that he has a litter antipathy for the entire reform idea. The other day he made a determined and caustic speech in support of the portion of the permanent Census Bureau bill which it was thought would place all the clerks in the office in the classified service, his object on the Civil Service Commission's eligible list out of positions. When It was found that the bill accomplished nothing of the kind, Mr. Gallinger was much dis appointed, to say the least.

Now he has determined to make cer tain investigations, which he has an idea may result in fun for him if not for the commission. On his motion the Senate has agreed to the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the Civil Service Commission is hereby directed to transmit to the Senate a list of persons in the classified service charged to the State of New Hampshire, giving names, legal residence, when appointed, and amount of salary in each case.'

The point of this resolution is that enator Gallinger expects to find clerks in the service credited to New Hampshire that never voted in the State, and a few at least that have never been within its borders. He would not be surprised if some of them are entirely unknown there. What he will do next if his hopes are realized nobody knows ex-

Sitting in the visitors' gallery and look ing down upon the Democratic side of the hamber, one is agt to think he is seeing louble if the brothers Kitchin-William W. and Claude-happen to be standing to gether. Indeed, they look and act so mu alike that it is difficult for their fellow members to tell which is which, and not : day passes but what one of these Ta-Heel statesmen is taken for the other.

Close observers of the two men have lowever, detected slight differences which enable them to distinguish William from Claude. Look closely and you will se that William parts his hair far ever on the left side, while his brother combs his with Rico. They will be absent for about two the part far on the right side; again, i William W. wears a black bow tie standing collar, Claude's peck will be en circled by a turn-down collar and a som bre "four-in-hand," but there the dis

imilarity ends. William W. is two years and a half older than Claude, and is serving his third term n Congress, while this is the first time Claude has had any legislative experience He came here backed by 10,000 majority while his elder brother had but 2,000 ma jority. Claude represents the Second district of North Carolins, and William W the Flith of the same State. Both are married they reside at the same house it Washington, they always vote alike, and oth are very popular with members of the Republican as well as the Democratic side of the chamber. Their father served in Congress soveral terms from the district now represented by the younger Kitchin.

Senator Scott's Watch.

Senator Hanna is no respecter of per- | Senator Scott has the most accurate sons, when it comes to getting the joke watch that has ever been tested by Mr. on the other fellow; he even does not Jones, the Weather Bureau man of the Senate. Mr. Jones says that it is unthe United States. He has one on Mr doubtedly the best timekeeper in Wash-Roosevelt now which he delights to tell. ington, and the has ample opportunity and the President is forced to admit, in to examine the finest of them. Senator view of the circumstances, that the laugh | Scott's watch did not vary a second from absolutely accurate time from February At dinner at the White House recently 4 to March 4. It was examined every Senator Hanns and Senator Scott of morning during the month, and the sec ond hand every morning came up to fin-During the progress of the meal the Ohio | ish the minute on the stroke with the statesman, addressing his host, said: official chronometer of the Weather Bu-

On March 4 Senator Scott gave the timepiece to his small grandchild, who dard of men."

"How's that, Senator?" remarked the President, enquiringly.

"He tells me," said Mr. Hanna, "that ever since you have been President he has been coming up here to urge appointments—and parenthetically 1 may say that I doubt not but that he has been a

Senator Scott values his watch highly that it came into his possession. When e 'up to the standard.' Now he says he as found out what that 'standard' is."

"What is it? Pray tell!" said the to give up the position, the clerks of his bureau united in presenting the watch to him as a testimonial of their esteem. He was as popular with the Treasury De-partment attaches as he is in the Senate.

approve of the bill providing that citi eens of the District, and visitors as well who are not provided with seats in the street cars shall be allowed to ride free and as a result it has been tabled for an indefinite period.

Another bill reported unfavorably yes-erday was that introduced recently at he instigation of James Selden Cowden. citizen and statesman, providing for a "nea wall" around the southern side of the city, bordering the Potomac River and the Eastern Branch, and making arbeing, as he said frankly, to keep those rangements for a District of Columbia paper currency to carry out the plan.

Why Potomac Water Is So Dirty.

Senator McMillan, Chairman of the Sente District Committee; Civil Service Commissioner Procter, and Charles Moore, clerk to the committee, were chatting in the committee room.

"By the way, Mr. Commissioner, I have liscovered why the Potomac water is so

Because the District Commissioners ave been stirring up Mudd so much of ate," said the Schator, Everyone in the room laughed heartily as if this had been an excellent joke.

Personal Notes About Washington People.

Capt. F. W. Sibley, of the Second Cavalry, stationed at Fort Myer, Va., has been ordered to Roelkey Farm, near Brunswick, Md., to arrange for the use of the ground for the annual small arms target practice season.

Admiral and Mrs. Schley have returned from Philadelphia, but will leave again on Monday next to attend the Evacuation Day exercises at Poston.

Mr. John Q. Morrison, of Denver, Col. s in the city to attend to business matters that will keep him here for a month While in Washington he will be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Moxon, of Capitol Hill.

Messrs. Charles Wheeler and John F. Treanor left vesterday for a trip southward that will include visits to Tampa Fla.; Havana, Cuba, and a tour of Porte

Mrs. Eikins, wife of Senator Eikins, o West Virginia, left the city last night for a trip to the South.

Mr. Charles M. Claxton, of the Pension office, is quite ill with la grippe.

Mr. and Mrs. Menthal, of St. Louis completed a month's visit to the latter's sister, Mrs. H. E. Walters, of Eighth Street, and returned home yesterday, ac-companied by Horace, Mrs. Walters'

Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Miles have returned to their home in this city after a pleasant tour through Mississippi and other South-

Hon, and Mrs. John Shepard Keyes are visiting Mrs. Keyes' sister, Mrs. Clement D. Hebb. 1502 Seventeenth Street north-

A Georgia Incident.

In a Georgia paper there appeared the other day a heartfelt protest against one item in the menu of a college banquet. The writer of the letter thought it was a shame that young men were allowed to drink St. Julien punch under the very noses of the faculty. What were the faculty about that they did not put a stop to this thing?

It is regarded by many people as evidence of the degeneracy of our day that young men at college exercise much freedom in the selection of their food and drink, essecially the latter. The critics ask why the faculty, who have these young men in charge during the formative period, do not use their offuence to prevent intemperance

y the absolute prohibition of aloholic liquors, tobacco, and cardplaying. Why do they not enforce strict rules as to study hours, and generally place the college under a regime which would resemble more closely that of the old Puri-

tan days? Because, for one thing, the age of collegians has moved up considerably since our colleges were ounded. Cotton Mather and his ontemporaries, and even students of a hundred or a hundred and fifty years later, entered college at twelve and graduated at sixteen. In the days of Hawthorne and Emerson, boys went into the freshman class at fourteen. Nowadays they do not enter under eighteen at least, and some of them not till they are in their twenties. It is impossible to govern young men of this age as one would an academy boarding house. This is one answer which might be made to the Georgia critic.

But there is a better one, and it was made by an indignant member of the class in question, a day or two later. He explained that St. Julien punch was a liquid of about the consistency and strength of the old-fashioned syllabub, and there was no need of making all that fuss about it. This proves that it is necessary to know the names of soft drinks before lecturing on temperance.

Legislation for Hotel Keepers.

Congressman Charles Scott has received peculiar petition from a Kansas woman. She wants a law passed which will regu late the amount of clothing on the beds in a hotel. The bill as framed by her would "compel keepers of hotels or sleep-ing rooms to keep on each bed four quilts and one blanket, each gullt to contain not less than five pounds of cotton batting (not coarse hair), and to be covered with at least fourteen yards of cloth (seven rards on each side), two and one-third ards long, and at least two yards wide, and the blanket to weigh at least two inds; this covering to be kept on the

uffering from insufficiency of covering m a cold night. And, really, a predicament of that kind is enough to make a person demand legislation to prevent it currence. Comfort in traveling demand hat one should not be too heavily laden with luggage, and, while many persons carry traveling rugs or shawls of suffcient weight to serve as bed quilts in ise of need, others dislike to be burden e needed. But there is no doubt that a raveling rug is like the pistol in Texas hen it is needed it is badly needed. The time has gone by when travelers ere expected to camp out in this or an

other country. If this bill fails to become a law, and there are persons who are disappointed thereat, it may southe their feelings a little to read of traveling in those times considered himself lucky i he got one-half of one bed in vate house, sometimes not then. occupied the "spare room" in winter was thankful if he did not find the sheets actually frozen together. Our ancestor

DOINGS IN THE WORLD OF SOCIETY.

M. and Mme. Chartran Guests of Honor at Dinner Given by the French Ambassador.

Artist Exhibits His Portraits of Mrs. and Miss Roosevelt in the Parlors of the Embassy-Miss Mildred Williams the House Guest of Dr. and Mrs. Loring.

Philippines.

Yard.

French Ambassador's Entertainment to Mrs. Hooker to Accompany Her Husband.

M. Chartran. Fashionable Washington was well repesented at the French Embassy yesterday afternoon, when the Ambassador entertained at tea in honor of his guests, M.

and Mme. Chartran. The hostesses of the occasion were Mme. de Margerie and Mme. Vignal, and among the guests were representatives from the various phases of Washington society, with a conspicuous showing from the Diplomatic Corps.

The portraits of Mrs. and Miss Roosevelt, which M. Chartran has just completed, were on exhibition in one of the drawing rooms and were very generally admired. Both paintings were handsomely framed and placed on easels.

That of Mrs. Roosevelt is a life-size three-quarter length portrait. Miss Roosevelt's portrait is simply a bust picture taken in her coming-out gown of filmy white, with a spray of white blossoms on her breast. It is a graceful girlish picture and a remarkably good likeness, the artist having caught the spirited expression of the eyes and graceful pose of the head, which are Miss Roosevelt's greatest

The artist has represented Mrs. Roosevelt sitting on a white bench as though she had paused in a walk-presumably in the White House grounds, as the south portico of the Mansion serves as a background. She wears a large black hat and black silk coat, trimmed with ribbon bands of black velvet. The coat opens over a gown of ivory-tinted silk, and one overturned corner gives a glimpse of its lining of violet silk.

The right arm and hand rest on the back of the seat and the left holds a parasol of black chiffon and lace. There are ripples of beautiful real lace about the waist and the turn of the head shows the chou of tulle at the back of the

Throughout the drawing room there were graceful decorations, though not elaborate, of Southern smilax, and in the room where the portraits were displayed were vases of Easter Illies. The tea table was adorned with spring flowers and the lights burned under daintily tinted shades.

Guests of Dr. and Mrs. Loring.

Miss Mildred Williams, the youngest daughter of the late Gen. and Mrs. Robert Williams, is the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Loring. She will shortly join her sister, Mrs. Patton, at her home at In-

To Visit Mrs. McKinley. The Surgeon General of the Navy and Mrs. Rixey will leave today for a short visit to Mrs. McKinley, at her home in Canton, Ohio

Mrs. Hooker has decided to accompany

Lieutenant Hooker to his new post in the

The marriage of Miss Louise Condit-

Smith to Lieutenant Hooker occurred

shortly after her return from Peking.

where she was a guest of the United States Minister during the siege. Presi-dent and Mrs. McKinley, the entire Cabi-net, Supreme Court, and every officer of

prominence in the army and navy attended the marriage of the young couple at Epiphany Church, in this city, and the wedding breakfast that followed at Jus-

tice Field's residence on Capitol Hill. Since their marriage Lieutenant and Mrs. Hooker have lived at the Brooklyn Navy

Joins Her Husband at His Post.

Mrs. Charles G. Ayres has joined her husband, Col. Charles G. Avres, U. S. A., at Fort Riley, Kansas, the latter having been transferred recently from Santiago to that post.

Mrs. Morrill at Her New Home.

Mrs. Edward Morrill has joined Representative Morrill at their new home on

Mrs. Barber's Luncheon. Mrs. A. L. Barber will entertain at

luncheon today. Entertaining Miss Wilmerding. Mrs. A. Garrison McClintock is enter-

taining her cousin, Miss Georgiana Wilmerding, of New York.

Mr. La Fetra a Dinner Host. Mr. E. S. La Fetra entertained at dinner on Wednesday, in honor of Mr. W. S. Hardesty, who will leave the city very soon in order to engage in business in Pittsburg. Covers were laid for twe've. The private dinner room of the hotel was used, and the tables were decorated with Golden Gate roses and violets. Each guest responded to sentiments as follows: Mr. Andrew Duvall, "Aspirations;" Miss Edith Creamer, "Friendships;" Miss Lutz, "Bon Voyage on Life's Sea: "Miss Elizabeth Stuart, "The Absent Ones;" Mr. Woy, "The Girl I Left Behind Me;" Mr. Benj. Graves, "The Girls;" Miss Polkinhorn, "Our Future Iron King;" Miss Stuart, "Anticipations;" Mrs. La Fetra, "Our Jewels," and Mr. Hardesty, "Good-bye, Uncle Sam." soon in order to engage in business in

GOSSIP AND CHAT HEARD IN WASHINGTON HOTEL LOBBIES

Louisville Clergymen to Be Licensed. | Customs Inspection a Drawback.

"The proposition to tax church prop-Hall, of Louisville, Ky., at the Ebbitt Said Mr. Frank B. Nesbit, of New York,

yesterday. nominations to pay a quarterly license of is that the preachers have been busying themselves with politics and trying to run the municipal government instead of confining themselves to the work of sav-

Bullfight Tickets Instead of Milk. "I was traveling in Spain some years ago with a friend who didn't know any more of the language than I did, and we by signs," said Mr. R. A. Boykin, of San Francisco, at the Shoreham.

"As a rule, we were not embarrassed "As a rule, we were not embarrassed vowed I would be a more modest man much by our ignorance, and got along bereafter when I got in conversation with capitally by gesticulation. In Madrid when we were at dinner I fell down sadly in trying to get the hotel waiter to bring us some milk. I had known its Spanish equivalent, but it slipped my memory, and in lieu of a sign I took out a pencil and hurriedly drew a rough likeness of a cow. The waiter smiled and bowed and ran off to perform the request. He came back, bringing no milk, but a couple of tickets

Georgia Peaches and Melons.

"When it comes to peaches and melon the old State of Georgia is in a class by tself," said Capt. John M. Eagan, a lead ing citizen of Savannah, and the popular president of the Central of Georgia Rail-

road, at the Shoreham. "California, Michigan, Maryland, and other States may boast of their fruit, but none of them has ever yet produced a peach that can vie in flavor and luscious less with the product of the Georgia or chards.

"For all these years we have beat the world on watermelons, and now are preparing to issue a challenge to all comer as to cantaloupes. I came pear forget ting, too, that the Georgia sweet potato is the monarch of the tuber family, and is so replete with the saccharine matter that in cooking the juice exudes and forms a thick crust of candy on the outer sur-

Was Obliged to Build a Draw.

"Whenever a railroad has to bridge avigable stream it runs against the United States Government," said Mr. W Simms, of St. Louis, at the Raleigh. "Because of this censorship of Unch Sam, the St. Louis Valley Railroad, running from East St. Louis to Cairo, will have to incur an expense of \$25,000, and all for the accommodation of a single poat. This is an ancient old tub that lourneys up the Kaskaskia River but once n a twelvementh to tow a raft of logs

down stream. "The company had no idea that in con tructing its bridge across that water ourse it was providing a hindrance to navigation, but here is where the railroad people found out something to their sor ow. The Government stepped in thr its officials and ordered a draw to be built, so that venerable scow could pass. To build the draw entailed an extra expense of \$25,000, besides the salary of a tender, who has to be kept there waiting for the solitary craft."

"Like most of my countrymen, I are erty is old, but one of our local solons fond of declaring to foreigners the greatgoes this a few better by advocating a ness of the United States and its sulicense for ministers," said Mr. J. H. periority over the rest of the world."

at the Arlington. "An ordinance has been introduced makng it obligatory on parsons of all detrue and loyal American. I told everyone with whom I taiked that my coun-\$50, and in the event of their refusal the try could give the balance of the earth sio, and in the event of their relusal the city attorney is to garnishee their salheat. In coming back on an ocean liner aries. The reason given for the measure I think I indulged in a good deal of the same sort of talk, half boastingly, half seriously. It surely is an American habit this fashion of superlative laudation of

"But I want to tell you of the anticlimax that, upon janding, turned all my vainglerious chatter into humiliation. This happened when we got to New York and the passengers had to wait for three morial hours while their baggage was gone through by customs officials. This scene of confusion, of annoyance, of exhad to get along the best way we could cessive impertinence, was such a sorry by signs," said Mr. R. A. Boykin, of San prelude to the approach of this glorious land I had been proclaiming as without a peer that I felt sick at heart, and

> foreigners. Ambrose Bierce a Pig.

Ambrose Bierce, while out in San Franisco recently, visited the new house of an old friend, a gentleman of Irish extraction. The hostess evidently took great pride in the house, the furnishings of which were new and beautiful, and gave every evidence of taste and refinement. Mr. Bierce, who has an eye for the beautiful, gave unstinted praise to everything he saw.
"But," he said, "I am sorry to see that

your house, beautiful as it is, lacks one ornament which no Irish house should be without." 'What is that?" she asked, unsuspiclously.

"A pig," replied Mr. Blerce, with a satisfied chuckle. The hostess' eyes sparkled. "It did," she said, indignantly, "but you have supplied the want."- New York

An Old-Time Growler.

I never like the springtime-the weather's most too bright, An' I've got no chance fer howlin' an' growlin lef an' right; The winter time is better, but winter will

not stay; But thank the Lord the summer is a-siz-Fer it's then I'm hard to beat In growlin' at the heat.

An' sayin' watermelons air only bitter-

sweet! jest wuz born fer growlin', no matter how it goes, To pick the world to pieces, find a thorn

with every rose;
The sunshine is too blindin', the winter is too col'.
An' the thunder, to my thinkin', is too ruckless in its roll!

Oh' I'm mighty hard to beat Findin' fault with cold an' heat; The world's a peach, I reckon, but it's only bitter-sweet!

If a fiery beavenly chariot should come for 'd want to stop at stations, takin' ice in on the way: An', landed safe in glory, I hain't got any

I'd growl about the climate till the good Then, where every growler goes

Where we meet our friends an' foes.
I'd growl about the weather till they drowned me with the hose!

-Frank I. Stanton.